

**C O N F I D E N T I A L ] .**

**SELECTIONS  
FROM THE  
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS.**

**OCTOBER 4—NOVEMBER 9, 1875.**

**CABUL AND CENTRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS.**

The *Roz-i-nama Panjáb* of the 5th November quotes the *Pioneer*, and the *Anjuman-i-Akhbár* of November 1st quotes the *Englishman*, on the Russians in Central Asia.

The *Shola-i-Túr* of the 2nd November writes that the Emperor of Russia intends making over Kokhand again to the Khán, its former ruler, but that the place will be garrisoned by Russian troops.

The *Rajputána Social Science Congress Gazette* of the 5th November says that if General Kaufmann annexes the whole of Kokhand, the Russians will have great influence in Central Asia and will capture Kashgar and Afghanistán very soon; of course it will take them some time to arrange everything properly and establish their authority firmly, but they are sure to advance towards the frontier some day.

The *Lash-i-Mahfíz* of the 5th November writes that the kífa which lately arrived from Yarkand brings news of the arrival of a Chinese army on the frontiers for the purpose of

re-capturing "Alâh" from the Russians, but that the Russians proposed to make over Alâh to them on condition that the Chinese joined them in an invasion of Kashgar to punish the Atalik Gâzî, and that after capturing his territories they should divide it between them, the Russians taking the city of Kashgar, and the Chinese the remainder of the territory. The Emperor of China having agreed to these terms, the Russians made over Alâh to them.

The *Roz-i-Nâmá Panjáb* of the 9th November writes that several persons have lately arrived at Peshawur from Câbul bringing news that some Russians had arrived and inspected the river "Hamon" (*sic*), and that they gave out that the Russians had no intention at present of advancing towards Afghanistán.

The *Oudh Akhbar* of the 10th November writes that very little news has of late been received from Câbul, as the Amîr of Câbul examines every letter posted for Hindustán, and will not allow any letter containing any news regarding Câbul and its affairs to leave. The editor wonders what the *Delhi Gazette* will do as it used to have its columns full daily of Câbul news. There is no doubt that the *Delhi Gazette* used to receive correct and true information from Câbul which used to surprise both the Government of India and the Amîr of Câbul, and that after many years the Amîr has now put a stop to this, and that no one now dares or attempts to send any news from Câbul. Two inferences might be drawn from this:— 1<sup>st</sup>, that the Amîr is annoyed at news appearing in the *Delhi Gazette*; 2<sup>ndly</sup>, that he might have joined the Russians and does not wish this to be known. Several Russian envoys have lately visited Câbul, and it would not be surprising if affairs had changed and the Amîr had thrown in his lot with the Russians. It is true that several newspapers declare that the Amîr has refused to accede to any of the Russian proposals, but the editor says that he does not believe that the Amîr did anything of the sort.

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 12th November writes that the *Pall Mall Gazette* publishes a letter saying that England is making a great mistake in remaining quiet, or in putting faith in the friendship of Afghanistán or the silence of Persia.

If the Russians capture the Attrik and Mashad, they will be firmly established and have a strong hold on Persia. That such will soon be the case there is no doubt, and it will be seen that the British Government has reaped no advantage either from Persia or Afghanistán. It is not apparent why the British Government should continue to supply the Afghans with arms and money, and the editor calls to remembrance their conduct and behaviour in 1837, 1842, and 1867, towards the British Government. Every one is surprised at the British Government putting any faith in the words of the Amír of Cábul or his promises. On account of the constant internal dissensions that prevail in Afghanistán the Russians can very easily capture that country, and it is surprising they have not done so ; but if they have not yet done so they will before long.

The *Riáz-ul-Akhbár* of the 1st November writes that the statement made by several newspapers of a Russian agent having arrived at Cábul and demanding a passage through Afghanistán of a Russian army to Hindustán is all false; but that it is true the Russians are causing great commotion in Central Asia, and that the Amír of Cábul is perplexed at their doings.

The *Khair Khwáh-i-Hind* of the 10th November says that the Russians intend to take Kokhand for good, and that the *St. Petersburg Gazette* says that, notwithstanding what the English may say in their Parliament, the Russians intend to act as they think proper in Central Asia; and as necessity compels them, they are compelled to do things which perhaps they would not otherwise have done.

The *Sadúdarsha* of the 25th October writes :—“ Since the debate that took place in the House of Commons on the progress of Russia in Central Asia on 6th July last, the subject has acquired fresh interest and importance. It was announced by wire some little time ago that the Muscovite has occupied Merv. Although the report has not been confirmed, and was given out prematurely, there appears to be no doubt that a Russian expedition has been despatched against that place. The question is what should the British Government do under such circumstances. Sir Henry Rawlinson, no mean authority in Central Asian matters, proposed that the Russian occupation of Merv should be followed by the English occupation of Herat, with or without the consent of the Amir. It is idle to expect that in the case of Russian occupation of Merv, the Amir of Cábul will consent to the occupation of Herat by the English. That potentate doubtless bears friendly feelings towards our rulers, but this friendship will not induce him to allow the English to take possession of a portion of his territories. The Afgháns will suspect that if they allow the English to occupy Herat, they must give up all hopes of obtaining it back. To say nothing of the Amir’s permitting our rulers to occupy Herat, it would be a marvel if he ever agrees to receive an English diplomatist in his capital.

Now, it is clear that Sir Henry Rawlinson’s suggestion cannot be carried out with the consent of the Amir of Cábul. The question then arises—Should the occupation of Herat take place without his consent, and necessarily in the teeth of his opposition? This is a serious question.

It should be borne in mind that the injudicious attack on Cábul made during Lord Auckland’s reign was dictated by the fears of a Russian encroachment. True, since 1838, two important provinces—Scinde and the Panjáb—have been added to the British dominions, but that does not essentially alter the case. The disasters experienced in the Afghán war must have taught our rulers the necessity of extreme caution in

dealing with Cábúl. The *Saturday Review* rightly observes—“Even if the expedition against Merv were a distinct menace to India, no English Government would undertake the heavy cost and serious risk of a forcible occupation of Herat without some urgent necessity.” In spite of the knowledge and experience of Sir Henry Rawlinson, the plan recommended by him cannot be carried out.

Our rulers must, therefore, be content to pursue the policy of “masterly inactivity” until the independence of Afghanistan is threatened. Any attack on that country will not of course be regarded by England with indifference. We suspect however that the Russians will not feel the necessity of making a formal attack on Cábúl. The civil war that will probably follow the death of its ruler may bring her to the scene, and we shall then see the spectacle of Russia and England supporting rival claimants to its throne. At any rate, it would be absolutely imprudent for John Bull to advance to meet the Muscovite. He must wait till events in Cábúl call for his action, either in the case of a direct Russian invasion, or in the case of Russia coming forward to take part in a war of succession, which will inevitably break out sooner or later.

The *Roz-i-Námá Panjáb* of the 11th November says that numerous Cábulis have arrived at Peshawur, and all complain of the cruel and oppressive conduct of the Amír, and say that he is daily enlisting men in his army by force.

The *Rohilkhand Akhbár* of the 13th November has the same information.

#### POLITICAL (NATIVE STATES).

The *Oudh Akhbár* of the 5th November says that the people of Mysore are much displeased at the style of the new palace which is being built for the Mahárája, and that on account of the instructions the Mahárája receives from Colonel

Malleson he is becoming a European. "The habits of the Mahárája are very good, but his life is one of misery, for when he mixes with his native friends he is always in dread lest Colonel Malleson should be annoyed, and when he mixes with Europeans he is afraid of giving offence to his native friends."

The *Núr-ul-Afshán* of the 4th November writes that the Bhíls are being instigated by some persons unknown to attack Baroda during the absence of the Gaekwár at Bombay.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the 2nd November says that it appears the Nizám of Haidarabad will not, on account of illness, be able to proceed to Bombay to meet the Prince of Wales, but that he will visit the Prince at Púna. The editor says he cannot understand this, for "if the Nizám is really sick, then how will he be able to go to Púna? The assertions of the English newspapers have turned out to be correct, that the Nizám would not meet the Prince of Wales."

The *Roz-i-Námá Panjáb* of the 4th November hopes the case of the ex-Gaekwár will be appealed before Parliament.

The *Guide of India* of the 15th November, noticing the numerous appointments of Europeans to political posts, says that there are many natives as clever who could perform the same duties to the perfect satisfaction of Government, and that it would be far more advisable to appoint natives to such posts than Europeans, and that a native resident would give satisfaction both to Government and native chiefs, and would pay more attention to the reform of the affairs of the state. There are many political agents, the editor says, who do not perform their duties honestly, but that if respectable natives were appointed there can be no doubt as to their honestly fulfilling their duties.

#### PRINCE OF WALES' VISIT.

The *Sayyid-ul Akhbár* of the 1st November says that the Nizám has lately had a grand carriage built, the like of which

does not exist in India. The editor considers it necessary that "the King of the Deccan" should possess such a carriage, and says that it will be presented to the Prince of Wales.

The *Sadik-ul Akhbdr* of the 1st November writes that it is rumoured that the Mahárája Holkar of Indore will not go to Bombay to meet His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, but that in the beginning of December he will proceed to Calcutta.

The *Agra Akhbár* of the 30th October reproves the Begam of Bhopál for her intention of being present at the Darbár in Calcutta with her face uncovered.

The *Guide of India (Rahbar-i-Hind)* of the 2nd November premising that it is unable to express all its joy at the arrival of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales in India, goes on to say :—"There will be fireworks and illuminations. Although there is no objection to these displays, still it is useless waste of money for about a couple of hours : these are glad tidings only for the oil-sellers, who will make a good harvest from it. This is all for the Prince, but he is not justified in making fools of the people of Hindustán and compelling them to empty their pockets. If the Hindustánis had any common sense they would not do all this, and it is a matter of surprise that the Europeans also are subscribing for the same purpose along with the natives ; and that in doing this they are simply making fun and fools of the natives. But the natives never think of all this, and never give a thought to the fact that the Europeans are not their well-wishers, and that they do not care for their welfare. For instance, Captain Nisbett wishes to erect a wooden palace, and Colonel Hall at Amritsar wishes garlands of flowers to be hung in the bazars. Clever persons should be asked what benefit will be derived from these? In place of all this, if a school for the poor was to be established it would benefit all classes and would be far better. If the Europeans had not joined nothing would have been subscribed. But is there not cash in the Government treasury? There are many-

persons who will not subscribe, as the money is to be spent in a moment uselessly. If schools, &c., were to have been established in honour of the Prince's visit, large sums would have been given by the râis of Hindustân."

The *Ashraf-ul-Akhâr* of the 1st November says:—“Everything is not all right in China, and war vessels are being sent towards that direction.” The intention of the British is to have war.

The *Râjputâna Science Congress Gazette* of the 5th November notices a rumour that any one wishing to see the Prince of Wales will have to pay a fee of Rs. 5, and that tickets will be issued. The editor says he can hardly believe this to be a fact.

The *Jâwâ-i-Tîr* of the 8th November, writing of the râjas visiting His Royal Highness, says that they are compelled against their wish to spend large sums of money, and will thus become bankrupts.

The *Kavî Vachan Sudhâ* of the 15th November regrets to learn that the Governor of Bombay did not treat the chiefs who assembled to welcome the Prince of Wales properly or hospitably.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE (GENERAL).

The *Saddâdarsha* of the 11th November writes that a very remarkable letter on the subject of Indian revenue appeared in the *Times* a few weeks ago. “The writer signed himself M., and we believe we are not mistaken in identifying him with Mr. Alonzo Money, C.B., of the Bengal Board of Revenue. The writer, in the first place, combats the gloomy view of the future of the opium revenue expressed by Sir George Campbell in the late debate on the Indian budget. He justly maintains that that view is entirely without foundation, and, indeed, goes so far as to say that ‘in the case of opium the risk is almost nil.’ The time may come when the improvement of the Chinese people will compel the Indian Finance

Minister to tax his ingenuity to find a proper substitute for the six crores of rupees which opium now contributes to the receipt side of his annual budget, but that time is yet far distant, and we need not pry too far into the future. In the second place, the writer treats of the salt revenue. The subject is one of paramount importance. It is well known that the locally-made salt of Bengal has now been almost wholly displaced by the foreign article imported from Cheshire, and the reason why Cheshire salt is sold so cheap in Bengal is that it has to pay very low freights. Ships come from England to this country almost empty to carry away its produce, and they can therefore afford to bring salt from Liverpool at nominal freights. Now, the Bengalis are entirely in the hands of foreigners for the supply of a necessary article of life and health. The writer in the *Times* rightly points out that in case of war between England and a maritime nation freights would rise and a great diminution in the quantity of salt shipped for India would take place. The consequence would be a salt famine in Bengal. We shudder to think what would be the condition of India under such circumstances. Lord Northbrook has already, with a view to please Manchester, strangled the Home cotton industry by imposing a prohibitive duty on the raw material. And we sincerely trust that he will not make us wholly dependent on Cheshire for the supply of a necessary article of life and health, by abolishing the salt monopoly of Madras. In the third place, the writer in the *Times* deals with the import duties on cotton goods, against which Manchester has so persistently clamoured. Of the 84 lakhs of rupees annually levied on the import of cotton goods not more than one-twelfth is contributed by this class of goods. If the Government of India had abolished the import duty on the coarse kinds of twist and cloth which are manufactured in India, Manchester would have had nothing to complain. In our article on the "New Tariff" we took this view of the question, and we are glad to find it supported by the authority of the experienced writer in the

*Times.* Instead of imposing a prohibition duty on raw material in defiance of all sound economic principles, it would have been much better had the import duty on the inferior classes of cotton goods been taken off. If, however, the Government of India could not do away with any portion of its customs revenue, the imposition of an excise duty on the coarser cotton goods manufactured in India, equal to the import duty now levied on Manchester goods, would, as suggested by the writer, have sufficiently met the ends of justice."

#### RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL.

The *Akhbár-i-Ālam* of the 4th November writes:—"There are two descriptions of respectable persons in Hindustán,—1st, those who are entirely ignorant, and 2nd, those who are well educated. But the latter have as little chance of appointments as the former, and even educated members of respectable families cannot often succeed in being appointed as naib tahsildárs or sheristadárs, or naib sheristadárs, even as copyists in the courts." The editor then asks,—What use is it for members of good and respectable families working hard day and night for years and mastering several languages if they cannot succeed in obtaining any employment? On account of their education they feel their position more than the ignorant, and do not consider life worth having. It is the duty of the sovereign to see that the educated classes are not entirely neglected.

The *Sadādarsha* of the 11th November writes that it has been at last definitively settled that the Mayo School of Industrial Art for the Panjab will be opened at Lahore on the 1st proximo. "We are extremely glad that the Mayo Memorial Committee of our province decided to devote the money placed at their disposal by the public to found such a highly useful institution. It will at once perpetuate the memory of the late lamented nobleman, and at the same time supply a want long felt in this province. The superintendence of the new institution could not have been placed in better hands than those

of Mr. J. Lockwood Kipling of Bombay. We shall not be at all surprised if unreasonable prejudices deter many young men from availing themselves of the benefits of art culture which have been placed within their reach. Apart from the refining influences of such culture—and those influences will for some time to come have very little weight with our countrymen—it will open a suitable career to many a youth. The ordinary walks of life in this country are over-crowded. We are at a loss to understand what charms quill-driving possesses for our English-educated young men. There are many men among us who, by training, could be made first class artists, but we are afraid that foolish prejudices will stand in the way of their placing themselves under the tuition of Mr. Kipling. It is well that twenty scholarships varying in amount have been placed at Mr. Kipling's disposal. This score of stipends will doubtless attract as many students. It is well known that for many years after the foundation of the Calcutta Medical College students could only be attracted by stipends. But now the numbers of candidates for admission into that college has grown so very considerable that the authorities have found it necessary to pass a rule restricting admission. We trust that the success of the Panjáb School of Art under Mr. Kipling will be such as to dispense with the necessity of giving scholarships in a short time.

#### LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Kavi Vachan Sudhá* of the 18th October calls the attention of the authorities at Benares to the practice of the boatmen of over-crowding the ferry boats.

The same paper of the 25th October says:—"Oh ! my beloved countrymen, wake and cast off your indolent habits, for good days are approaching for you. You are born in a country where gold can be had without labour, and the stones and kankar of this place are like gems. Why do you remain indolent while your neighbours are prospering? You are daily falling off in all good works. You do not even feel ashamed

at the education and success of the Europeans, and marry your children when very young. This is a great mistake. Leave off all your evil habits and embark on ships for distant countries in search of appointments.

The *Mata-i-Nur* of the 2nd November writes that in Lalitpur there is a gang of three hundred Brahmans who are dacoits.

The *Patiala Akhbár* of the 1st November writes that the "ignorant zemindars and ryots say that since the British captured India the soil has lost its life and that all good luck has left. Formerly the outturn from one bigha of land used to be 15 or 16 maunds, but now it is difficult to get even five maunds."

The *Agra Akhbár* of the 30th October says that an army has been sent against Thákur Surajbhan from Jodhpur, and that it would not be surprising if the Government of India interfered in this matter. "Complaints against the Díwán of Jodhpur are current all over the State."

The *Benares Akhbár* of the 4th and 11th November again charges the local municipality with neglect of sanitary matters.

The *Núr-i-Afshán* of the 11th November condemns the *Shola-i-Tár* for accusing the Jail authorities and subordinates at Amritsar of cruelty. (See *Selections, Shola-i-Tár*, November 2nd, "Local and Miscellaneous.")

The *Ashraf-ul-Akhbár* of the 11th November, noticing that a company has been established in London for improving the cultivation of tobacco in India, calls the serious attention of natives to the fact. As all the profits from manufacture, &c., have already been taken away, the Europeans have now an eye on their lands and agricultural business, and before long they will wish to cultivate other things, and thus take

away all the lands from the natives. They are not satisfied with cultivating only tea and indigo, and the editor says he has constantly been trying to rouse the natives to do something for themselves, and warns them that if "they do not, the Europeans will before long occupy the whole of India, and make the natives their servants and slaves."

The only remaining subject is to give a short résumé.

The *Patiála Akhbár* of the 8th November again calls attention to the prevalence of gambling in the city of Amritsar. The *Guide of India* of the 15th November again complains of the filthy state of that city.

#### POLITICAL (GENERAL).

The *Guide of India* of the 15th November advocates the enrolment of natives as volunteers, both foot and mounted. Some zamindárs in the Deccan have applied to Government to be enrolled as mounted volunteers, and the editor hopes that Government will accede to their request.

*The following Vernacular Newspapers have been examined in this report:—*

No.	Name of Newspaper.	Language.	Locality.	When Published.	Date.	Date of Receipt.
1	<i>The Mahrat Akhbar,</i>	---	Marathi, Urdú,	1875.	Nov., 3rd	1875.
2	<i>Taj-ul-Akhbar,</i>	---	Ditto,	4th	"	8th
3	<i>Oudh Akhbar,</i>	---	Tri-weekly,	7th	"	9th
4	<i>Khair Khwad-i-'Alam,</i>	---	Weekly,	3rd	"	9th
5	<i>Muir Gazette,</i>	---	Ditto,	4th	"	9th
6	<i>Roz-i-Námá Panjab,</i>	---	Daily,	6th	"	9th
7	<i>Guide of India,</i>	---	Weekly,	6th	"	9th
8	<i>Koh-i-Nár,</i>	---	Ditto,	6th	"	9th
9	<i>Akhbar Anjuman-i-Panjáb,</i>	---	Ditto,	6th	"	9th
10	<i>Wakil-i-Hindustán,</i>	---	Ditto,	5th	"	9th
11	<i>Aligarh Institute Gazette,</i>	---	Ditto,	6th	"	9th
12	<i>Násim-i-Jaunpur,</i>	---	Ditto,	5th	"	9th
13	<i>Panjábí Akhbar,</i>	---	Ditto,	6th	"	9th
14	<i>Rohilkhand Akhbar,</i>	---	Ditto,	9th	"	9th
15	<i>Tohsa-i-Káshmír,</i>	---	Ditto,	6th	"	10th
16	<i>Anjuman-i-Hind,</i>	---	Ditto,	30th	"	10th
17	<i>Urdú Akhbar of Akola,</i>	---	Ditto,	6th	"	10th
18	<i>Rájputána Social Science Congress Gazette.</i>	English and Urdú,	Ditto,	5th	"	10th
19	<i>Roz-i-Námá Panjab,</i>	---	Ditto,	Daily,	"	11th
20	<i>Urdú Akhbar,</i>	---	Ditto,	Weekly,	"	11th
21	<i>Máwár Gazette,</i>	---	Urdú and Hindi,	Ditto,	"	11th
22	<i>Kárnáma,</i>	---	Urdú,	Ditto,	"	11th
23	<i>Dabdaba-i-Sikandari,</i>	---	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	11th
24	<i>Oudh Akhbar,</i>	---	Ditto,	Tri-weekly,	"	11th
25	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbar,</i>	---	Ditto,	Weekly,	"	12th
26	<i>Matla-i-Nár,</i>	---	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	12th
27	<i>Lauh-i-Mahfuz,</i>	---	Ditto,	Ditto,	"	12th

Sholat-i-Tarīq,	...	Ditto,	9th
Roz-i-Nāmā Panjāb,	...	Daily,	9th
Rhair-Khwād-i-Oudh,	...	Bi-monthly,	9th
Lawrence Gazette,	...	Weekly,	9th
Fatiāla Akhbār,	...	Ditto,	8th
Jalwā-i-Tūr,	...	Ditto,	8th
Khair Khwād-i-Hind,	...	Tri-monthly,	10th
Sādiq-ul-Akhbār,	...	Weekly,	8th
Nāsim-i-Jaunpur,	...	Ditto,	26th
Ditto	...	2nd Nov.,	2nd
Taj-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	11th
Khair Khwād-i-Alam,	...	...	10th
Roz-i-Nāmā Panjāb,	...	...	10th
Vritt Dhāra,	...	...	8th
Nur-ul-Anwār,	...	...	13th
Bendres Akhbār,	...	...	4th
Ditto,	...	...	11th
Oudh Akhbār,	...	...	12th
Nur-i-Afsħān,	...	...	11th
Mayo Memorial Gazette,	...	...	10th
Shams-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	12th
Rohilkhand Akhbār,	...	...	10th
Roz-i-Nāmā Panjāb,	...	...	11th
Ashraf-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	11th
Roz-i-Nāma,	...	...	12th
Riaz-ul-Akhbār,	...	...	1st
Koh-i-Nār,	...	...	18th
Akhbār-i-Anjuman-i-Panjāb,	...	...	12th
Roz-i-Nāmā Panjāb,	...	...	13th
Wakīl-i-Hindustān,	...	...	13th
Meerut Gazette,	...	...	18th
Guide of India,	...	...	13th
Akhbār-i-Alam,	...	...	11th
Rōntiñgāt Akhbār,	...	...	13th
Akhbār Gwalior,	...	...	7th
Urdū and Hindi,	...	...	9th

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	LANGUAGE.	LOCALITY.	WHEN PUBLISHED.	DATE.	DATE OF RECEIPT.
63	<i>Almora Akhbar,</i>	Hindi,	Almora,	Weekly,	1875. Novr., 17th	1875. Novr., 19th
64	<i>Kashi Patrika,</i>	Ditto,	Benares,	"	" 15th	" 19th
65	<i>Saddarsha,</i>	English and Hindi,	Dehli,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 17th
66	<i>Kast Vachan Sudha,</i>	Ditto,	Benares,	Ditto,	" 8th	" 17th
67	<i>Ditto,</i>	Ditto,	Ditto,	Ditto,	" 15th	" 19th

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 ANNAHAD :  
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